



HQ AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB TX



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Old AF greeting grounds jet

Associated Press

Web Posted : 02/07/2003 12:00 AM

WASHINGTON — A cryptic note a passenger gave to a flight attendant led the pilot to return to the gate at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on Thursday.

ATA Flight 295 to Chicago's Midway Airport was taxiing toward the runway when a man passed the note, written on a napkin, which contained three words: "fast, neat, average."

Airline spokeswoman Angela Thomas said the man asked that the note be given to the pilot. But the pilot had no idea what it meant.

Airport police took the man into custody, but after several hours of questioning and background checks he was released, an airport spokeswoman said. The man wasn't identified.

The flight left 1 hour 15 minutes late, and arrived in Chicago without further incident.

According to Thomas, the man initially claimed to be an Air Force Academy cadet, and said the message on his note would have been understood by an Air Force pilot. The ATA pilot didn't have military experience.

Air Force Academy spokesman Lt. Greg Hignite said airline officials told him the man later said he was a neighbor of a cadet who attends the academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Air Force spokesman Capt. Peter Kerr said the expression is, in fact, part of academy lore and originates from a form that cadets must fill out to rate the quality of food and service at the campus dining hall.

If the meal and service are adequate, the standard responses are "fast-neat-average, friendly-good-good."

According to legend, Kerr said, the same words were used during the Vietnam War as a challenge and response during rescue attempts in which a downed pilot was an academy graduate.

Before Sept. 11, 2001, cadets and graduates on commercial flights sometimes would write "fast-neat-average" on a napkin and ask a flight attendant to give it to the cockpit crew. The code words often brought an invitation to tour the cockpit.



AETC Bases News Clips

Altus AFB OK



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Air Force Colonel recalls training with astronaut

By Dawn Marks
Enid Bureau

Wednesday, February 5, 2003
Edition: City, Section: NEWS, Page 5-A
Dateline: ENID

ENID - When he met Rick Husband more than 20 years ago, Keith Snyder could see the type of man Husband would become.

"Rick was the quiet, soft-spoken type. He struck me as a man of character," Snyder said. "He, in my mind, hadn't changed at all."

Snyder and Husband trained together at Vance Air Force Base in 1981, and both eventually rose to the rank of colonel in the Air Force. One became the commander of the space shuttle Columbia and the other an instructor training more pilots, perhaps future astronauts, at Vance.

Husband and six other crew members, including fellow Vance graduate, Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson, died Saturday when the Columbia broke apart while re-entering the earth's atmosphere.

Snyder, operations group commander at the Enid base, said that although he and Husband were not very close during their time at Vance, the two shared the bond that many pilot trainees in the same class do. He wasn't surprised when Husband became part of the astronaut program.

"Clearly we were all bright eyed and searching for the stars," he said.

Husband, 45, graduated in the top 10 percent of his class at Vance and went on to fly fighter jets. The Amarillo, Texas, native later became a test pilot and logged more than 3,800 hours of flight time in 40 different aircraft.

The two men crossed paths through the years but never served in the same place again.

The Oklahoman
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Air Force colonel recalls training with astronaut, Con't.

Snyder said that although Husband, while in flight training, had never expressed ambitions of one day going into space, he knew that Husband would do well when he was selected for the astronaut program in 1994.

"I was not surprised at all. Rick was an outstanding pilot, certainly a good choice for NASA," he said.

Snyder was on a commercial flight Saturday when the Columbia broke up. When he saw television coverage after he got off the plane, he knew immediately what had happened to Husband.

"It was absolutely devastating to learn of that, and my prayers go out to his family," he said.

Husband was married and had two children.

Despite the known risks, Husband was the type of man who would never have turned his back on his duty, much like other military personnel facing dangerous situations and the threat of war now, Snyder said.

"They're not unlike the astronauts. It's important to remember that connection," he said. "It's all that same devotion to duty."

Anderson, who graduated from Vance in 1987, also finished near the top of his class, base officials said.



AETC Bases News Clips

KEESLER AFB, MS



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Posted on Fri, Feb. 07, 2003

THE SUN HERALD

Airman had discharge pending

Charged in DUI death, she awaits a second court-martial

By **ROBIN FITZGERALD**
THE SUN HERALD

BILOXI - A senior airman charged with felony drunken driving in a pedestrian's death had received a bad conduct discharge but was still in the military awaiting a second court-martial, military officials said Thursday.

Michelle Ann Kraft, stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, is charged in the death of 76-year-old Julian W. Knoles, who was struck by a car late Tuesday on U.S. 90 near Veterans Avenue.

Knoles, of Biloxi, died the following day.

Kraft, 21, remains on active duty because she faces a court-martial related to a recent military conviction involving ecstasy, said Capt. Morshe Araujo, director of public affairs for the 81st Training Wing at Keesler.

Kraft will be discharged, but her release has been postponed.

"The United States Air Force has no tolerance for drug use," said Araujo.

At the time of the traffic accident, Kraft had just been released from military confinement for distribution and wrongful use of ecstasy, said Araujo. Kraft was sentenced to six months.

Military officials won't give details about the pending court-martial and wouldn't speculate on whether the Air Force also will prosecute her on the charges involving Knoles' death.

Her military drug conviction, however, could have a bearing on the criminal case in Harrison County Circuit Court, said Charlie Wood, assistant district attorney.

"Conviction on a (military) charge we consider a felony on the outside world is something prosecutors would absolutely look at," Wood said.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice uses a court-martial, the military version of a trial, to prosecute active-duty personnel accused of violating laws or offenses stipulated by the code.

Kraft is assigned to the surgical operation squadron at Keesler Medical Center, said officials, who aren't releasing her hometown.

Biloxi Sun Herald
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AETC Bases News Clips

KEESLER AFB, MS



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Airman had discharge pending, Con't.

She left the Harrison County jail Wednesday on a \$25,000 bond for the felony DUI charge and a \$430 bond for leaving the accident scene, a misdemeanor.

But after Knoles died, authorities upgraded the misdemeanor charge and re-arrested her on a \$100,000 bond.

She is scheduled for a court appearance today.

Biloxi Sun Herald
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AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



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Conflict with airman closes grade school

By David Madrid
The Arizona Republic

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE —

An armed and potentially suicidal airman at Luke Air Force Base led to an elementary school lockdown Wednesday.

Luke security forces and Glendale police responded to the incident at the man's home on base. The security forces took the active duty airman, who was armed with a handgun, into custody without incident.

The airman, who wasn't identified, will be evaluated by mental health officials.

Luke Elementary School, which is adjacent to the base and part of the Dysart Unified School District, was placed on lockdown as a security precaution. At no time were any children in danger,

authorities said.

Children who live on base did not take school buses home. Instead, parents were advised to pick them up from the school.

A base spokesman, Lt. Jeff Clark, said the base was concerned about students walking home or going to friends' houses near where the confrontation was occurring.

The airman's house is about three-quarters of a mile from Luke Elementary, he said.

"We don't really know what will end up happening to him," Clark said. "I think a lot depends on the circumstances."

Reporter Maggie Galehouse contributed to this article. Reach the reporter at david.madrid@arizona-republic.com or (602) 444-6926.

The Arizona Republic

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KEESLER AFB, MS



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Posted on Fri, Feb. 07, 2003

THE SUN HERALD

Height reduction proposed

Sound-buffer issue near Keesler unresolved

By TOM WILEMON
THE SUN HERALD

BILOXI - The Biloxi Planning Commission on Thursday made its recommendations on height limitations to protect flight safety at Keesler Air Force Base, but issues about sound buffers for high-rise developments near the base are unresolved.

The commission voted unanimously to keep heights originally recommended on a map detailing flight safety zones. However, the commission recommended an automatic 10-foot height reduction to lessen the likelihood of human error whenever a developer proposes a high rise that is at or near the recommended height limits.

Three weeks ago, city officials thought they would have to revise the map to address new concerns from the base.

The height limits are part of a new set of laws the city is adopting to protect Keesler from a future round of base closings and to prevent civilian casualties in an airplane crash. The other laws would require structural noise buffers and restrictions on land uses in accident-potential zones.

The height limitation proposal has not received an official endorsement from the base.

"Keesler has not given a final OK on that," Michael Collins, a lawyer for the city, told the commission. "There are still issues out there. However, we feel they can still be addressed and we are going to address those."

The City Council will have final say and city officials will continue working with Keesler, Collins said.

Keesler is concerned about the potential for noise complaints from residents of new residential developments, such as high-rise condominiums, near the runway. Collins recommended that the city's Building Board of Adjustments and Appeals, which is more familiar with construction matters, address those concerns.

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KEESLER AFB, MS



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KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE

Keesler to welcome reserve troops

U.S. Army reserve troops from across Mississippi will arrive at Keesler Air Force Base to work with security forces.

Maj. Dean Cusanek, commander of the 81st Security Forces Squadron, said the soldiers will allow Keesler forces to take care of other security tasks and reduce the airmen's work hours.

"When our deployed forces return, the Army presence will provide a welcomed boost in manpower, which will allow us to conduct a variety of training," Cusanek said.

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KEESLER AFB, MS



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Keesler airman arrested in DUI fatality

By **TOM WILEMON** and **ROBIN FITZGERALD**
THE SUN HERALD

BILOXI - A senior airman stationed at Keesler Air Force Base has been arrested for felony drunken driving involving a death and leaving the scene of the accident, authorities said.

Julian W. Knoles of Biloxi died at a Mobile hospital Wednesday from injuries sustained when he was struck by a vehicle while walking across U.S. 90 in Biloxi on Tuesday night, police said. His age wasn't available.

Michelle Ann Kraft, 21, of the 81st Training Wing's surgical operation squadron, was arrested by the Biloxi Police Department shortly after the accident.

Police said the accident happened at 10:11 p.m. Tuesday in the 1800 block of U.S. 90, which is near Veterans Avenue. Knoles was taken to Gulf Coast Medical Center, then air-lifted to the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile.

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AETC Bases News Clips

Vance AFB OK



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Letters to the Editor

Cleaning streets on east side won't necessarily save Vance

And the smoke goes on, as I watched the city pride in Enid go on, the other day I could not help laughing, the big push to clean up Enid is probably a good thing. For the city but cleaning up these streets on the east side of town is not going to save Vance, nor is all the money that they are paying the so-called consultants to advise them. All the Mayor and City Council can pitch is Vance. I believe someone is going to line their pockets of all the big supporter of Vance, legally of course, at the expense of the little people of Enid with the upcoming tax. The number of people working at Vance changes weekly. 1500, 1900, 2500, now, the answer is simple -- let's all move 10 miles from Enid, give all the money we raise by the tax to the consultants, take all the convicts and now more sidewalks in the winter and vote the Mayor and City Council to life-time terms and we will live happily ever after. We have had the same school board for at least 10 years. Does this not tell you why the schools are like they are?

Loyd C. Kaufman
Enid

Enid News & Eagle

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AETC Bases News Clips

Vance AFB OK



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Vance troops ready for fight

By: Robert Barron, Staff Writer

February 06, 2003

Any troops at Vance Air Force Base who may be deployed should be ready to go now, said Col. A.J. Stewart, 71st Flying Training Wing commander.

Although the base primarily is a training base for student pilots, Stewart said some Vance personnel could be deployed if hostilities break out with Iraq. Those troops support the combat mission, and there is an ongoing requirement for them to be ready to deploy, he said.

Stewart made similar comments in last week's edition of the Airscoop, Vance's base newspaper.

Among forces that could be deployed are security forces (police) and radar approach controllers, he said.

"We have some of the best radar approach controllers in the Air Force right here," he said.

Also in line for possible deployment are computer information specialists and medical personnel.

People in those jobs must be prepared to go, Stewart said. That includes having all immunizations done, private gear packed and ready, wills made and powers of attorney prepared.

If Vance personnel are deployed, Stewart and the commanders must be sure those personnel are ready to go.

In Iraq there is a threat of chemical attack, so each person deployed must be trained and equipped to counter that type of attack. They also must be prepared to render self aid and buddy care in the event they or other troops are wounded. They have been trained in CPR and how to treat wounds, the rules of engagement, small arms training and other needs, Stewart said.

"There's a long list of stuff to get," he said. "Training should have been done already, now is not the time to get it."

It is no longer time to get ready, Stewart said it is time to be ready.

Stewart said the Air Force had warnings last year saying now is the time to prepare troops for potential deployment.

"That was get-ready time - now is be-ready time," he said.

When personnel are called into service, a deployment line is established, making facilities and equipment available for any last-minute checks.

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AETC Bases News Clips

Vance AFB OK



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Vance troops ready for fight, Con't.

"They get supplies, visit the chaplain, get last-minute immunization shots, I.D. tags. Wills, power of attorney, must be already accomplished," he said.

Deployment for those who will go can happen any time now. Stewart warned those who may go to explain the process to their families and to do the last-minute things they should do to take care of their families.

"The spouse must know things, like where the money is, how much is there. Get the car checked, get the house checked, be ready for a long-term absence," he said.

The Air Force has transformed in recent years, he said.

During the Cold War, the Air Force had a robust overseas basing strategy providing a way to stop aggression, he said. Post-cold war, there has been a dramatic reduction in permanent overseas bases.

"When a crisis occurs we must be able to get there. We are an expedition Air Force. We go where the fight is, execute the plan and come home," he said.

Such a strategy requires the Air Force to be agile and be on the scene quickly.

"We do that very well," he said.

However, preparing those people to support the combat effort is a secondary mission at Vance. Stewart said the No. 1 mission is training student pilots. Vance graduates about 490 each year, members of the Air Force - including Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve - Navy, Marines and international students.

"We provide, roughly, about a third active duty pilots to the Air Force," he said.

Training student pilots and preparing support personnel for combat areas are tasks done simultaneously.

"No matter what happens next, whether it is new combat or the country is attacked, the next day Vance will fly 350 sorties to train pilots," he said. "Our primary focus is to keep doing that."

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LUKE AFB, AZ



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www.westvalleyview.com **6 Feb 03**

View should censor letters

To the editor:

Mr. Kruger, what Luke AFB are you talking about? [“Luke trains our future enemies,” Jan. 29 letter to the editor.] You must have flown when the Wright Brothers were flying.

As a retired instructor who trained maintainers at Luke, I can assure the public that your quote of 50-70 percent of pilots at Luke are foreign is way off. Luke has only two squadrons of F-16 aircraft that are training foreign pilots. Out of eight active and one reserve unit that certainly does not add up to 50-70 percent. Try 22 percent, as they are aircraft provided by two Asian countries that are helping us keep the peace in the Asian theater.

It is a credit to our country to have these pilots here to help our world if things go sour in North Korea. You forget that the noise those planes make, which is minimal today, is the sound of freedom, the freedom for you to have your twisted views that are so far off base published in this paper.

It is hard for this veteran to believe that a combat veteran pilot would have such views. Luke is not only good for our local economy, but it provides for the training our pilots are going to need in the next few months in the Middle East as we liberate the oppressed people of Iraq and help make our world a safer place for my children and all children to hopefully grow old and never see a September 11 tragedy happen again.

I think the people of the West Valley need to speak up and tell the truth. Shame on you for passing bad information to the residents of the West Valley! It is too bad the West Valley View continues their liberal anti-American and anti-Luke stance and articles.

If it were not for those who serve in our armed forces and bust their hump at Luke every day who give you the freedom to express your views.

It would just be nice if for once when a letter so full of false propaganda came to the editor, he could at least investigate the claim and put an editor's note to inform the public of the facts. I hope all who support our armed forces and read the view let those who advertise in the View they want them to really rethink advertising in the View until they start supporting our troops and report the truth.

West Valley View
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LUKE AFB, AZ



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View should censor letters, Con't.

Thank you for your time and giving this veteran a chance to clear the air with the truth. God bless our volunteer armed forces for giving us the freedom to express our views and for their sacrifices to ensure future peace and hopefully prevent another September 11 from ever happening again and allowing others in our world to hopefully enjoy the freedom we Americans enjoy.

Trust me I have been all over this world and America is the greatest place to live, bar none.

Brent Heiss
Avondale

West Valley View
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